

**February 24, 2015  
Regular Meeting**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL .HELD FEBRUARY 24, 2015**

A Regular Meeting and Work Session of the City Council of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, was held Tuesday, February 24, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 300 North Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

PRESENT:                   Brenda S. Pelham, Mayor  
                                  Christina J. Luman-Bailey, Vice Mayor  
                                  Arlene Holloway, Councilor  
                                  Anthony J. Zevgolis, Councilor  
                                  Jasmine E. Gore, Councilor  
                                  K. Wayne Walton, Councilor  
                                  Jackie M. Shornak, Councilor

                                  Mark A. Haley, City Manager  
                                  Thomas Lacheney, City Attorney  
                                  Cynthia Y Ames, City Clerk

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Pelham opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Pelham	-	present
Vice Mayor Luman-Bailey	-	present
Councilor Holloway	-	present
Councilor Zevgolis	-	present
Councilor Gore	-	present
Councilor Walton	-	present
Councilor Shornak	-	present

**WORK SESSION**

**WS-1. SCHOOL BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016**

The Hopewell School Board met on Thursday, February 12, 2015, and after conducting a Public Hearing on January 29, 2015, approved their FY2016 School Board Budget by adopting General Resolution 14-02-G12. A copy of that resolution and the detailed School Board Budget, showing the revenue and expenditures for each of the four funds was submitted to Council (filed in the City Clerk's Office). The total requested transfer from City funds to balance the FY2016 Budget is \$17,997,281.81. That amount reflects an additional \$2,841,313.13 for salary support, healthcare costs, and the continued funding for trash collection. Also included in the budget request is an increase in the City transfer to the Capital Fund of \$345,918.75 for debt service.

**MOTION TO EXTEND WORK SESSION**

Motion was made by Councilor Gore, seconded by Councilor Zevgolis, and unanimously passed to extend the work session.

**WS-2. CITY BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 - EXPENDITURES**

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Finance Director, Jerry Whitaker, presented the FY2016 Review of Proposed Forecast of Revenues. He referred to the FY 2015-2016 Budget Calendar. At the City Council Work Session scheduled for March 3, 2016, the Tax Levy Public Hearing advertisement must be approved. A public hearing must be held on March 24, 2015. Based on the numbers from the Real Estate Assessor's office, real estate is still going down. They are expecting a 1.19% decrease in the value of real estate for the coming year. That equates to a 1.5¢ to 2¢ increase in the real estate tax rate. In order for the real estate bills to go out on time, the public hearing must be on March 24. The public hearing must be advertised on March 10 and March 17. Instead of May 12 for adoption of the school budget, the target date is April 28.

Council priorities will be to maintain financial integrity; housing and neighborhood assistance and enforcement; investing in employees; safety building; regional communication system; storm drainage utility; MIS software; recycling; Regional Phase II project; economic development; and teen family center. There is no funding of COLA in the 2015-2016 budget. There is no funding for increase in health care costs.

Mayor Pelham complimented the finance director on doing a good job.

The City Manager reported that the General Assembly lobbyist did succeed in dipping into the I-295 fines further. It is a huge hit to those 33 communities who take money from the interstate. The hope is that the Governor will veto that. The City Manager also recommended that Council consider finding more money for the Beacon Theatre.

**WS-3. ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO AMEND ARTICLE X, LIMITED BUSINESS DISTRICT (B-2), SECTION A., USE REGULATIONS, TO ALLOW ACCESSORY STRUCTURES TO INCLUDE METAL CARPORTS THAT ARE NOT VISIBLE FROM PRIMARY STREETS AND ANY OTHER CONDITIONS THE CITY COUNCIL MAY DEEM NECESSARY; FINANCIAL BUDGET FY 2015-2016**

The City of Hopewell has received an application from David A. Roberts, Jr., for a Zoning Ordinance Amendment to Article X, Limited Commercial District (B-2), Section A, Use Regulations, to allow accessory structures to include metal carports as long as they are not visible from primary streets and any other conditions the Council of the City of Hopewell deems necessary. Staff recommends denial of the Zoning Ordinance Amendment. Staff does not object to an accessory structure being allowed in the B-2 District by a Conditional Use Permit.

The business owner made an honest mistake. Staff realized that the regulation may be too strict. From an economic development perspective, this should be reconsidered.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Luman-Bailey, seconded by Councilor Zevgolis, and unanimously passed to adjourn the Work Session at 9:05 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING**

The Regular Meeting was opened at 9:05 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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Motion was made by Vice Mayor Luman-Bailey, and seconded by Councilor Walton, to approve the Consent Agenda, minutes-none; Pending & Action List; Information for Council Review-none; Personnel Change Report & Financial Report-first of the month only; Public Hearing announcements-announced on February 10, 2015 for march; Routine Approval of Work Sessions; Ordinances on second and final reading-none; Routine Grant Approval-none; Proclamations/Resolutions/Presentations-none. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Walton	-	yes
Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Shornak	-	yes
Vice Mayor Luman-Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	yes

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS**

Dorothy Flowers, Ward 2, presented a letter to the City Clerk to be copied. Her discussion was about high utility bills in Thomas Rolfe Apartments, Davisville, and Bland Court. She went to the HRHA office. She claims that Mr. Benham is not doing what he is supposed to do. Staff at the HRHA will not talk to residents. Mayor Pelham asked the City manager to make an appointment for Ms. Flowers with Mr. Benham.

Amarillio Uasai, homeless, presented Council with a letter regarding the plight of the homeless when the City's warming shelter is closed. The letter urged Council to consider keeping the shelter open longer hours, and perhaps year round. (Letter filed in the City Clerk's Office.)

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

**R-1. BUDGET AMENDMENT FY 2014-2015 – HOPEWELL REGIONAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY EMERGENCY REPAIR OF THE CENTRIFUGE EQUIPMENT**

In December 2014, one of the HRWTF sludge dewatering centrifuges failed. The centrifuge equipment had to be sent to an equipment repair vendor at a cost of \$92,276.00. The maintenance budget did not contain funds to cover that unexpected emergency repair. Therefore, \$83,882 in funds from unappropriated miscellaneous revenues must be transferred to the HRWTF FY 2014-15 maintenance budget to cover the repair costs. The City Administration recommended approval of the amendment.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Luman-Bailey, and seconded by Councilor Gore, to resolve to approve the Budget Amendment Fiscal Year 2014-2015 in the amount of \$83,882 for the emergency repair of the centrifuge equipment at the Hopewell Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Walton	-	yes
Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Shornak	-	yes
Vice Mayor Luman-Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	yes

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**BUDGET RESOLUTION AMENDMENT  
FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015**

**WHEREAS** at the meeting of the Council of the City of Hopewell held on Tuesday, February 24, 2015, an amendment was introduced to appropriate funds for the FY 2014-15 Budget to provide for the repair of the centrifuge equipment; and,

**WHEREAS**, a budget amendment to appropriate funds in the amount of \$83,882 for the repair of the centrifuge equipment from the un-appropriated miscellaneous revenues for the FY 2014-2015 budget, was introduced; and,

**BE IT, HEREBY, RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Hopewell:

Sec. 1. The following designated funds shall be appropriated:

HRWTF Fund-032:

Resources:

Miscellaneous Revenues..... \$83,882

Appropriations:

Equipment maintenance..... \$83,882

**REPORT OF THE CITY CLERK**

The City Clerk announced vacancies on boards, commissions and authorities: Board of Architectural Review-2 vacancies-no TBRs on file; Dock Commission-1 vacancy-no TBRs on file; Virginia's Gateway Region-1 vacancy (2-28-2015); Keep Hopewell Beautiful-1vacancy-1 TBR on file; Recreation Commission-1 vacancy (1 student, rising junior); Senior Citizen Advisory Commission-3 vacancies-no TBRs on file; Social Services Advisory Board-3 vacancies-4 TBRs on file.

**REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Councilor Gore announced the Crime Awareness Summit Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, at 6:00 p.m. at the Sunlight Elks Lodge on High Avenue, Hopewell. She thanked the City Manager for helping to organize the meeting.

Councilor Shornak thanked Ray Spicer, Mr. Haley, Mr. Dane, Pastor Boggs, and others, who have helped with the homeless warming center at the Mallonee Gym. People have benefitted from it. She spoke with Mr. Spicer this weekend. She will coordinate taking a meal to the site. Anyone who wants to help is encouraged to do so. Many churches are bringing food.

Councilor Zevgolis reported on the Crater Planning District Commission's discussion of Route #460 expansion and improvements. The General Assembly has been very slow to react. The CPDC decided to push that issue strongly.

Councilor Gore reported on an MPO meeting. The main part of the meeting was to vote on upcoming projects. The Cedar Level Road Project is still on the books and something that will be worked on. As far as other projects, the bridge replacement and half of the extension for Mesa Drive is also on their

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part at the end. That is something that did not have funding. Something that Council will have to look at to see what we can do because as it stands, half of the projects will be done, but the other half is going to need funding. There was a monorail study about this area getting a high speed train. Hopewell was one of the localities that might be a site for that. We did not make the cut, but we were one of the finalists.

Vice Mayor Luman-Bailey reported that it was good that we were considered for the high speed train station. We did qualify for the public transportation and that Council continues to support. Even though the grant money is running out, Council has decided to support the bus transit. That shows that we are a community that cares about public transportation. The Vice Mayor reminded everyone of the partnership between VCU, the Department of Development, and the Architectural Review Board. We have graduate students working on a survey of the City Point Historic District. They are asking for everyone to turn in their surveys by tomorrow. They should have come in the mail. This is a great opportunity to get some help from VCU. It will maximize on our historic district. The time is perfect especially with the Sesquicentennial coming up. It will maximize on our tourism opportunities.

The Calendar of Events for the Sesquicentennial has been published. It begins on March 19. There will be a play at the Beacon Theatre on March 19 and March 20, entitled, "Soldier Come Home." All activities on the schedule are free to the public. There will be two bands; the Federal Brass Band, playing period music; and the Ft. Lee Band.

Mayor Pelham addressed the homeless issue. She did go down to the warming center on Friday evening and Saturday morning. She thanked Mr. Haley for starting the project. She specified that it is not a homeless shelter, but a warming center. Pastor Boggs of First Baptist Church and his Sunday school members coordinated volunteers to sit there every night. They give the homeless a \$5 Hardee's gift certificate when they leave. Anyone who would like to contribute individually should contact Pastor Boggs, or The Organization of Citizens and Churches, Ruth Johnson. On Friday evenings the Fountain of Life Outreach Church provides a hot meal.

There will be a Pancake Breakfast at First Baptist Church to benefit the Food Pantry. It is being sponsored by the homeless population. If you cannot participate, consider making a donation.

**CCR-1.CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – MAYOR PELHAM – PRESENTATION FROM JOHN RANDOLPH FOUNDATION CONCERNING THEIR YOUTH INITIATIVE PROJECT**

This issue was postponed. The City Manager asked Council to look at dates in the last week of March/first week of April. Keep in mind that that Sunday is Easter Sunday. It will be a busy week.

**COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilor Walton thanked Ray Spicer. He was able to relocate a woman and her husband out of deplorable living conditions, into a nursing home. Also, there will be an important vote on that train station coming up. They have pared it down to four or five places.

Mayor Pelham sadly reported that the girls' basketball team lost 53/47.

**ADJOURN**

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At 9:32 p.m., motion was made by Councilor Shornak, and seconded by Councilor Zevgolis. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Walton	-	yes
Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Shornak	-	yes
Vice Mayor Luman-Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	yes

/s/ Brenda S. Pelham  
Brenda S. Pelham, Mayor

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Cynthia Y. Ames, City Clerk